

Fall 2000
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U.S. Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Land Management,
Eastern States


VANTAGE

Survey and Land Records Draw Australian Land Managers to Eastern States

Story and photo by Cathy Rodine, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States



Australian Land Managers visited Eastern States' Bindery Section to see how historic records are prepared for scanning by the GLO team. Conservators Kate Marks (seated left) and Rik Smart (across) explain the restoration process.

Also like the BLM, the DOLA has a strong commitment to quality customer service and has developed leading-edge technology and innovative techniques in many areas to ensure the highest levels of accuracy, efficiency and delivery speed for products and services. 

In August, the Director and Chief Executive for Land Information Services for Western Australia's Department of Land Administration (DOLA) visited Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia to learn about land record preservation. Having much in common with the BLM, the DOLA had its origins as the Survey Office for the Swan River Colony in Western Australia in the early 1800's. DOLA representatives Henry Houghton and Allan Skinner discussed our land tenure system, BLM's General Land Office (GLO) functions, and the GLO Records Automation Project with our Eastern States' staff.

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State Director's Message

With this message I would like to welcome our new Associate State Director, Michael D. Nedd. We are pleased to have him as part of our Eastern States' family. Mike brings with him excellent BLM experience from both the State Office and Headquarters. His technology expertise will greatly assist Eastern States move to Electronic Government. Mike's high energy, enthusiasm and optimism will be appreciated by both staff and partners.

Among the many programs in Eastern States, the following will get priority attention during Fiscal Year 2001:

- * Improving customer service by doing more and improving business electronically;
- * Achieving successful Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions;
- * Successfully concluding our land acquisition projects in Virginia and Maryland; and
- * Investing in our current workforce and planning for our future.

The fall got off to a great start with highly successful National Public Lands Day activities in Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Special emphasis will be placed on the Wild Horse and Burro Program. BLM had to have emergency horse and burro gathers this past summer due to the severe drought conditions out West, and Eastern States will play a critical role in finding good homes for more than 3,000 horses during the coming year.

In closing, I want to personally acknowledge the fine work done by the Jackson Hotshot Fire Crew during this past summer's extensive wildfire season. The Crew, lead by Superintendent Lamar Liddell and Assistant Superintendent Fred Ashford, tackled fires in Florida, Nevada and Montana.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to the State Director.

Summer Equine Events



In August, Volunteer Tina Jones provided a riding demonstration with her mustang "Cicso Kid" at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Maryland.

Photos by Jinx Fox



In September, Volunteer Hannah Morgan (right) showed off her mustang "Indian Outlaw, while WH&B Specialist Karen Malloy and her mustang mare "Miwok" gave a ride to youngsters at the Kiwanis Charity Polo Match in The Plains, Virginia.

New Associate for Eastern States

By External Affairs Office, Eastern States

Early August we welcomed Michael D. (Mike) Nedd as our new Associate State Director. In his usual style, Mike arrived at the office full of energy and ready to begin his new job. He will work with State Director Gayle Gordon to provide the day-to-day leadership for the Eastern States Office, managing the public lands and natural resources in the East. Mike, a former Eastern States' employee, is well aware of the challenges, but his experience and diverse and professional background will help Eastern States turn them into opportunities.

Mike was born and grew up in Guyana, South America. He prides himself in being a diligent, energetic worker, who has sought to bring "quality" to the life of those who he comes in contact with. He is married and has five adorable children.

Mike has held numerous positions with the BLM. He recently served as the Deputy Assistant Director/Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) for Information Resources Management (IRM) in BLM's Washington Office. Other positions he has had include Acting Associate State Director, Special Assistant at the Eastern States Office, and IRM Chief at both the Eastern States and Headquarters Offices. He also served a three-month stint in U.S. Congressman James Clyburn's office, where he analyzed and studied environmental issues as part of a developmental assignment.

Mike holds a Master's Degree in Information and Systems Management from Strayer College and has completed



**Michael D. Nedd, Associate
State Director, Eastern States**

the Executive Development Program at the Federal Executive Institute (FEI) in Charlottesville, Virginia; Office of Personnel Management's year-long Executive Potential Program; and the Advanced IRM Program at National Defense University. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Information and Systems Management and Associate Degrees in Computer Technology and Business Administration. 🇺🇸

In Remembrance...

We came to know Gary Bauer while he was District Manager in our Milwaukee District Office and when he became the Associate State Director for Eastern States. Gary was a dependable friend of many BLM Eastern States employees, and very much a professional colleague. He was widely respected and admired, having a forthright manner about him, guiding us through the efforts of our office.

We enjoyed his humor and fun that he injected into many tasks — even when some of us worked through the trying times of the furlough a few years back.

Cadastral Survey Deputy State Director Steve Kopach said, "Surveyors constantly chided Gary about him being a civil engineer by trade and that he had to overcome the 'engineers are better than surveyors' syndrome. But Gary was able to appreciate the



Gary D. Bauer (1949-2000)

distinction and became much more than a professional colleague to us. His wisdom and counsel meant a great deal to all of us."

Birding Pleasure at OWAA

Excerpt from a note sent by Charles W. Frank, Outdoor Writer's Association of America member and volunteer, to Terry Lewis, Chief, External Affairs

“It all started with a phone call from old friend Terry Lewis Chief, External Affairs for the Bureau of Land Management. Could I take a few hours away from the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) conference in Greensboro to lead a group of young people on a birding tour of the Bog. This was not the best of times for birding. The spring migration of warblers was over, but I figured we'd see a few raptors and possibly a couple of ubiquitous garden birds.

The great thing about bird watching is that it always springs a few surprises and adds a dimension to travel or just observing garden birds in your own backyard. Terry picked me up and explained that Jon Cox, Marketing Director for the Brunton Company, a firm that specializes in a full line of compasses, binoculars and global positioning devices for marine, military and recreational users, would furnish binoculars for all our little participants. I was surprised to find the age of the kids ranged from 7 or 8 to 10 years of age. None of them had ever used binoculars or seen a spotting scope. Their wonder as they learned to focus the glasses brought a big grin to Jon's face. We taught them to focus eyes on any movement, then, holding head steady, bring the binoculars to their eyes.

The thrill of introducing kids to birding is that it never leaves them. It teaches patience, forbearance and cooperation with the group. Sharing a sighting can be as exciting as “ticking” a new bird to a life list.

I encouraged them to start their life lists with this first exposure to the sport. They spotted song sparrows, a swooping kestrel, crows, cardinals, a lone grey cat bird, robins, a summer tanager, blue jays, house sparrows, a



Photo by Joy Pasquariello

Children birding with volunteer Charles Frank at the OWAA conference.

purple finch, several mallard ducks, eastern phoebes, a brown thrasher, several eastern blue birds, mocking birds, a number of red wing black birds, a little wren that flittered about too rapidly for me to identify, starlings feeding on grass seeds, and a flight of barn swallows. They learned the difference between the seed eaters and the insect feeders and how nature adapted the bill to a specific bio niche. They heard the sound of woodpeckers, some too low and distant for my old ears to pick up. I called their attention to the importance of sound in bird identification. A really good birder has to have the ability to identify birds by their song, long before optical identification is possible.

It truly was a great learning experience for them and for me. We parted with the smiles of a group, and their bright and shining eyes — opened for the first time to the wonder and beauty of one of God's miracles, the avian delight of his flying jewels.”



BLM Reaches Out through D.C. WOW

Story and photo by Charles Bush, Program Advisor, Eastern States' Environmental Education Outreach Program

BLM Eastern States and its D.C. Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) partners continue to reach out to the Bureau's current and future public through the D.C. WOW camping program. This urban camping initiative uses camping and outdoor recreation as vehicles to promote environmental stewardship among urban youth. Each camping event helps youth to explore

their relationship to the land and to nature through the use of educational activities such as Urban “Leave No Trace,” Pathways to Fishing, Soils Sampling, and Wildlife displays.

The summer camping schedule has been completed, and now D.C. WOW moves into its fall schedule, which

Continued on page 6

Web Sites Blaze Trails



In July, the Wild Horse and Burro Internet Adoption Program and the General Land Office Records Automation Project were selected as E-GOV 2000 Trail Blazers, being distinguished as exceptional solutions that merited recognition within the E-Government community. 🇺🇸



Combining Resources

By Vicky Craft, WH&B Program Specialist, Jackson Field Office

The Jackson Field Office (JFO) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have combined resources to ensure humane treatment and care of adopted wild horses and burros.

During early July, several APHIS Field Inspectors accompanied Fran Edwards, JFO Compliance Officer, on 40 compliance inspections in and around Mississippi. The primary goal was to make sure that within six months of adopting, all adopted wild horses and burros placed into private care were receiving proper treatment. All animals inspected were found to be in excellent care.

The APHIS Field Inspectors are excited about having the opportunity to work with the

Wild Horse and Burro Program and in taking part in making sure the animals are receiving proper care. This local partnership stems from a national Memorandum of Understanding signed between BLM and APHIS. The opportunity also exists for BLM's JFO to expand this partnership into other states.



During FY 2000, Marty Neugebauer and Fran Edwards, clocked more than 50,000 miles and inspected over 1,000 animals. With the combined help of the APHIS inspectors, we can expect that many more wild horses and burros will be checked in the coming year. 🇺🇸

Mining Florida's Rich Phosphate

By Lars Johnson, Geologist, Clay Moore, Natural Resource Manager, and Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, Jackson Field Office

On August 24-26, the Jackson Field Office National Environmental Policy Act team took a fact finding trip to meet with two phosphate companies that have active mining and reclamation operations on BLM leases in west-central Florida. Approximately 75 percent of the Nation's phosphate supply and about 25 percent of the world's supply comes from Florida. The surface mines cover an area of about 20 to 30 square miles. The BLM's leasehold in the area is scattered and represents approximately 1 to 2 percent of the total mined areas.

Phosphate has been mined in the land-pebble phosphate area of Florida, covering portions of Polk, Hillsborough (Tampa), Hardee, and Manatee Counties in west-central Florida, for over 100 years.

Before mining can begin, the companies must go through a rigorous permitting process, where both operating plans and land reclamation plans must be approved by State and Federal agencies prior to any mining. Within the past 5 years, State and Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have requested that mining companies submit "life of the mine" plans which address present and future mining and reclamation for up to 15-20 years.



Photo by Faye Winters

Sinkholes, often rich in paleontological resources, pose engineering challenges to phosphate companies mining in this pockmarked area in west-central Florida.

After mining of an area is completed, reclamation may consist of creation of wetlands, replanting of scrub habitat for the Florida scrub jay (a threatened species), improved pasture for cattle, or citrus orchards. In general, phosphate companies attempt to replace acre for acre native plant communities and wetlands. There has been speculation that some of the reclaimed areas may be increasingly used for residential development in this predominantly rural area. 🐾

WOW...continued from page 4

involves transporting the youth to more distant venues for WOW II camping experiences at Wye Island on the Eastern Shore; Cunningham Falls State Park in Thurmont, Maryland, which combines mountain scenery with the stunning Cunningham Falls; and at Camp Riverview in Scotland, Maryland, October 28-29, with youth from the town of District Heights, Maryland.

There is no better way to start the fall season than with a cool fresh breeze, colorful foliage, and a volunteering spirit. To volunteer, call Charles Bush or Marcella Davis at (703) 440-1738. 🐾



Young campers enjoy the camaraderie of the WOW Campout at District Heights, Maryland this past July.

Summer Students Tour Capitol Hill

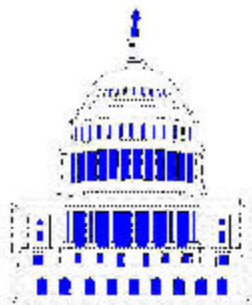
By Milli Alam, Student Temporary Employment Program, Eastern States

What a way to spend a summer day — touring Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.! Summer students, Milli Alam, Elon Hudson, Jessie Hicks, and Altariq Samuels, as well as employees Joe Zilincar and Theresa Walls (and her daughter, Alexis) spent the day walking, touring, and seeing in real life all the familiar faces of the Senators that had, up until that point, only been viewed from television or newspapers.

The tour started at the offices of the House of Representatives, consisting of the Rayburn, Longworth, and Cannon Buildings. The group divided up and took off to look for their representative's office to request House Gallery passes. The mission was successful. "I actually got to meet Albert Wynn and I introduced myself. I was overwhelmed by the fact that he was just a regular guy," said Jessie Hicks.

We also had an opportunity to sit in on a hearing dealing with public land access and saw the process of presenting a case — asking and answering tough interview questions, making statements to get one's point across, and representing an agency's interests. It was valuable exposure to see how the system worked and a good experience. "My favorite part was the hearing, where we saw how decisions are actually discussed. It seems like nothing ever gets done — a whole hour of talking and nothing got done," said Altariq Samuels.

Even lunch was a good experience. We dined at the Library of Congress buffet, where we ate exquisite food and enjoyed a fantastic view of the Capitol grounds.



After lunch, we sat in on the sessions of the House and even the Senate, where votes were taking place. While the aye's and nay's were being tallied, the Senators could be seen hustling and bustling around the Senate Room. We tried



A few of Eastern States summer interns take a break from their busy schedule for a group photo.

to name them as we recognized them. "That's Ted Kennedy, and there's Trent Lott, and that one is Strom Thurmond, right? Oh, I think I see John Warner," said one student.

Joe served as the tour guide, who navigated us up and down the numerous flights of stairs and through the many hallways of the historic Capitol Hill buildings. "My favorite part was seeing the room that used to be the old courthouse, and hearing about how Dolly Madison used to sit in on some of the cases and that the Dred Scott Decision was decided there too. There was so much history in that room," said Elon Hudson. At one point, we even encountered a tall, snow-white haired Senator who held a door open for us. It was all so exciting.

Overall, it was a valuable learning experience for us as we were able to see the legislative process in action, and how BLM might participate in that kind of process. Now we have a better understanding of the inner workings of the Government's Legislative Branch. "I enjoyed the whole experience. I felt it helped enhance my knowledge of the Federal Government further," Altariq said. Jessie said, "I enjoyed the trip and being with Joe, even though he wanted to walk a little bit too much." We are all grateful for this wonderful experience. 🇺🇸

Photo by Cathy Rodine

Meritorious Service Award for Cadastral Survey's Deputy State Director

By External Affairs Office, Eastern States

Stephen G. Kopach, Eastern States Deputy State Director for Cadastral Survey, recently received recognition for his contributions and undaunted devotion to public service to the BLM. He was granted the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award for his contributions to the Bureau in the field of cadastral surveying, land records preservation, Indian Trust Responsibilities and interagency partnerships.

During his 24 years of Federal Government Service, he has worked with all the Bureau of Land Management's resource programs; conducted boundary surveys for numerous Federal agencies involving every facet of cadastral surveying and collaborated extensively with Federal and State agencies and Tribal Governments to ensure that legally defensible boundary surveys are conducted to protect the legal rights of land owners.

Stephen's oversight of the Cadastral Survey Program in the 31 Eastern States achieved notable interagency collaboration involving cadastral surveys for the National Park Service, the Bureau



Photo by Cathy Rodine

Eastern States Director Gayle F. Gordon presents the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Award to Cadastral Survey Deputy State Director Stephen G. Kopach.

of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has also provided outstanding leadership for the General Land Office Records Project by maintaining and preserving more than nine million historical land documents, survey plats and field notes, homestead patents, military warrants, and railroad grants, some dating back to the late 1700's. 🇺🇸

The Jackson Hotshot Fire Crew



From dawn til dusk, the Hotshot Crew made their way to the fire scene each day to put an end to the blazes.

The Jackson Hotshot Crew (below) takes a moment for a photo during the 2000 Fire Season. The 20-member Crew began their busy summer in central Florida, then moved westward to Nevada and Montana, to fight fires during this especially long and dangerous fire season.



The Hoshot Crew walked miles in the western desert to reach the fires in northeastern Nevada.

Photos by Gayle Gordon

Summer Student Gets More Than Expected

By Michelle Alvarez, DOI Summer Intern, External Affairs

When I first found out I had been selected for an internship with the Department of Interior's Diversity Program to work at the BLM, Eastern States, I had no idea what to expect. Through the help of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, I was selected by BLM, Eastern States to be a summer intern in the External Affairs Office.

Just ending my first year as a student at the Pennsylvania State University, I had heard many things about internships, but I never imagined how involved I would become in the work done by the External Affairs staff of Eastern States.

On my first day of work, I sat in on the External Affairs weekly meeting, where I learned about BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program. This program would turn out to be the main topic of my work during the summer. I jumped in full speed to work on my first task — to write a press release about wild horses and burros. Soon I found myself writing more and more press releases, creating advertisements and fliers, and devoting all my time to this important BLM program.

The highlight of my summer was planning a week-long, media trip for my mentor, Mr. Terry Lewis, External Affairs Chief, to make visits to Tennessee and Kentucky media in an effort to promote upcoming WH&B adoptions in Cross Plains and



Photo by Peggy Riek

Summer intern Michelle Alvarez coordinated more than 20 interviews with media in Tennessee and Kentucky to promote the Wild Horse & Burro Program.

Knoxville, Tennessee. I was given the opportunity to assist Mr. Lewis on the media trip.

Working with the External Affairs staff at Eastern States has taught me many valuable "life-long lessons" which I will take away with me. I feel that this time with the BLM has taught me more than I could ever have learned in any college classroom — a priceless experience which has affirmed my desire to become a publicist. I also learned that hard work really does pay off and, with perseverance, you can reach any goal. 🦄

MFO Personnel Help with Western Fires



Welcome to a typical fire camp! Milwaukee Field Office personnel, Joanne Marean, James Engstrom, and Mark Pawlak, volunteered to help out on the western fires this summer.



A fire briefing tent is used for Incident Command. Geographic Information System mapping is posted on the board.

Photos by James Engstrom

ES Happenings

Eastern States representatives participated in a 4-day fall conference of the Eastern Lands and Resources Council held in Tennessee.

Agenda items included a discussion on how the organization's new structure is working; a presentation on the acquisition and development of Tennessee's first Trail State Park, its many complex issues, and how they are being resolved; a discussion on water quality, State forest management policy, clear cutting practices, fire management issues, and revenue management, and a discussion on hydropower relicensing. Tours included a brief Civil War history of Shiloh Battlefield; shared insights of Tennessee's objectives in preserving historic battlefields; and a dinner speech on Civil War artifact preservation. The group also took a river tour by canoe on the Wolf River, one of nature's most astonishing waterways, rich in beauty and wildlife. The group also received a fabulous presentation on "Powerpoint Presentations that Win!" The last highlight of the conference included a tour to BLM's contracted Wild Horse and Burro Adoption/Holding Facility in Cross Plains, Tennessee.

In partnership with Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove's Office, the Jackson Field Office provided the award-winning educational Wild Horse & Burro CD ROM to all 49 county library systems in the State of Mississippi. As part of the partnership, Governor Musgrove signed letters disseminating the CD ROM, and the Jackson Office agreed to make distribution. This effort should spark interest in the BLM's WH&B Program for library-goers across the State. Additionally, the Jackson Office will conduct summer educational programs at any library within the State as requested, and will look to expand the distribution of the CD ROM in county libraries in Alabama and Louisiana, as well as Mississippi public schools in partnership with the Mississippi's Governor's Office.

Eastern States's employees Linda Brooks and Jennifer Spencer staffed an exhibit of the General Land Office (GLO) Automation Records Web site at the annual Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, held in early September in Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 1,200 registrants participated at the conference, and over 800 visitors were shown how genealogists can use the research capabilities of the GLO Web site and Bureau records to trace their ancestors.



**"Congratulations to Harry Moritz,
our Webmaster, and his wife, Rita,
on their recent wedding!"**

In celebration of American Heritage Month in July, the Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records Offices hosted a cookout, with all the trimmings, a Patriotic Dress Contest, an All Employees meeting, and a cadastral survey presentation entitled, "Eastern States - the Foundation of the Public Domain," which was given by Cadastral Surveyor Corky Rodine. Dress contest winner and summer student, Kesha James, wore a dress in vertical stripes of primary colors. Kesha won a "surveyor's survival kit," which consisted of a mouse pad, a coaster, a coffee cup, insulated cooler, and can coolers. Now she is prepared to return to college!

Forty-eight people representing the plant industry, State and Federal Government, researchers, and nonprofit groups attended the kick-off meeting for the Mississippi Exotic Pest Council. The meeting was sponsored by the BLM's Jackson Field Office, The Nature Conservancy, and the Museum of Natural Science. The day-long meeting saw by-laws accepted and a steering committee established, and provided a forum for substantial energy focused on Mississippi's invasive weeds. Although "kudzu" is the region's most infamous invader, the "plant that ate the South" is not alone. It is estimated that almost 600 exotic plant species are invading natural areas in Mississippi; that's almost 20 percent of the plant species diversity in the States.

A Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale, was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia on September 21, 2000. Thirty-one parcels of Federal land were offered in the States of Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Thirteen parcels were sold at the sale in Kentucky and Mississippi, generating revenue totaling over \$32,251 from bonus bids, filing fees, and rentals. The highest per acre bid was \$2.

Many Eastern States' employees volunteered along with individuals and members of various groups on September 23, for National Public Lands Day events. Sites in the East included Pohick Bay in northern Virginia; Jupiter Inlet in Florida; Big Saline Bayou in Louisiana; Milwaukee Urban Tree House in Wisconsin; and Big Piney River Cleanup in Missouri.

Employee Scene

Retiree - Richard Wallace, Geologist, JFO

Transfer - Randall Anderson to MFO, WH&B

Specialist, from the Department of the Army

Tell Us What You Think!



Dear Friend,

You are currently receiving a copy of the *Vantage*, a publication of the Bureau of Land Management's, Eastern States Office. In an effort to modify/improve our newsletter and identify reader interests, we need your help. We hope you will take a few minutes to answer some questions:

- Is the current newsletter providing you with the kind of information about our office that is of interest to you (i.e., programs, employee updates, etc.)? _____

- Is the variety of articles adequate for our coverage of the BLM's 31 Eastern States? What types of articles on our programs would be of interest to you? _____

- Are you satisfied receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, or would you prefer viewing it only at our Eastern States' Web site at www.es.blm.gov/? _____

- Do you want to be kept on the mailing list to receive *Vantage*? Yes _____ No _____

Your ideas and input are important to us. Please send us your comments and name and address changes using this postage paid card by **November 30, 2000**. (Additional space is available on page 12 for comments.)

We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

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The BLM's Eastern States Office is responsible for the stewardship of public lands and resources in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River. Our office administers 20,000 surface acres of public lands and more than 39 million acres of subsurface Federal mineral estate. Major programs include: Cadastral Survey, General Land Office Records, Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions, Energy & Minerals, and Communication. Editor: Margaret M. Riek

For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713, or visit our Web site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/>

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Additional newsletter comments:

Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Promotes Environmental Education

Story and photo by Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

Environmental education programming at Milwaukee's Urban Tree House (UTH) site at Lynden Hill began this summer under the direction of Site Coordinator Todd Lundberg. America's Outdoors sponsored summer intern students to assist Todd with activities, lessons, and games which were conducted with the children every Monday morning. Nearly 700 children and adults, including 58 teachers, visited or participated in programs and workshops held at the site.

Scheduled events included Environmental Education and Management Workshops, community plantings and workshops, site clean up and tours, produce and flower sales, beginning a mapping project of the UTH site, and learning about the UTH program.

This green open space is just the beginning towards creating a community partnership at Lynden Hill in the Midtown neighborhood.



Urban Tree House Site Coordinator Todd Lundberg assists two young children with recording their findings of different insect and plant habitat at the site.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



The Open Space Agency

